

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Examiner has required Applicants to elect one of the following allegedly distinct inventions:

- Group I: claims 1-9, 29-40, drawn to a method of waste treatment
- Group II: claims 10-19, drawn to a method of feeding
- Group III: claims 20-28, drawn to compositions.

As best understood, the Examiner has also identified three different categories of species elections as set forth below:

Species Election One: Odor Reducer

- a) CCC
- b) bismuth
- c) PAC

Species Election Two: Odor Reduction Treatment

- a) feeding (claims 10-13);
- b) feeding and waste treatment (claims 14-19).

Species Election Three: Waste Treatment

- a) odor reducing with adapter (claims 1-6, 29, 35-37)
- b) cross adapter only (claims 7-9, 30, 38-40)
- c) odor reducing only (claims 31-34)

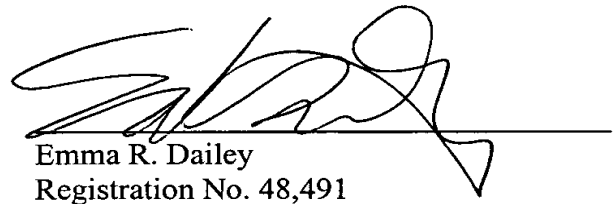
DOCKET NO.: MON-0292
Application No.: 09/887,970
Office Action Dated: July 1, 2003

PATENT

Applicants elect Group I (claims 1-9, 29-40). For purposes of searching only, Applicants elect PAC as the odor reducer, which reads on claims 1, 2, 4-9, 29-32, 34-40; and odor reducer and cross adapter as the species of waste treatment which reads on claims 1-6, 29, 35-37. No election is necessary with respect to Species Two because claims 10-19 are not among those identified in elected Group I.

The foregoing constitutes a complete response. Applicants respectfully request an early Office Action on the merits. The undersigned invites the Examiner to contact her at the number below should there be any questions.

Date: August 5, 2003



Emma R. Dailey
Registration No. 48,491

Woodcock Washburn LLP
One Liberty Place - 46th Floor
Philadelphia PA 19103
Telephone: (215) 568-3100
Facsimile: (215) 568-3439